(SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Indo-China joint stand on NPT

6641. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 424 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th April, 94 and state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Chinese Ambassador published on 21st April, 1994 on the front page of Hindustan Times;

(b) if so, what are the signals for India on various issues; and

(c) whether India and China would take joint stand on NPT against pressure from USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The newspaper report referred to, lists issues reportedly referred to by the Chinese Ambassador to India, which have a bearing on India-China relations, such as the Kashmir issues, China's stance on the status of Sikkim, and China's dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Government welcomes steps taken by China which could contribute to the steady improvement of bilateral relations between India and China.

(c) China is a signatory of the NPT while India is not. The Chinese Government, and the US Government are aware of Government of India's views on the NPT and other non-proliferation issues.

Indian Ambassador to U.S. visits Srinagar

6642. SHRI ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Ambassador to the United States visited Srinagar on 9.4.94 for first hand assessment of the situation as also to gather evidence regarding the involvement of Pakistan;

(b) what are the names of other dignitaries who accompanied him during the visit;

(c) whether during the visit they also visited Jammu and met Hindu migrants;

(d) the details of the grievances explained by the migrants;

(e) details of information collected by them; and

(f) whether those details have been given to US and if so, its reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Shri S.S. Ray, India's Ambassador to the United States visited Jammu and Kashmir on 9-10 April, 1994, during a visit to India, to familiarise himself and get an assessment about the situation in the State, including the continuing support from Pakistan to the terrorists in the State.

(b) No dignitaries accompanied him.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The migrants are reported to have explained the circumstances under which they had to flee their homes and the conditions in which they now lived.

(e) and (f) The US Government have, of late, been of the view that Pakistan is not actively aiding and abetting terrorists in India. Government have, on a continuing basis, provided evidence to the US Government, of Pakistan's aid to terrorism in order to underline Pakistan's complicity in this regard. Ambassador Ray's visit to Jammu & Kashmir was part

of this continuing exercise.

Supply of F-16 to Pakistan

6643. SHRI G.G. SWELL:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:
SHRI MOHD. MASUD KHAN:
SHRI SARDA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
DR. ISHWAR CHANDRA GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that US has finally decided to supply F-16 bombers to Pakistan in spite of a strong opposition of India;

(b) what are the major disastrous characteristics of F-16 bombers;

(c) what are the details including about its atomic weapon. carrying and deep penentration capacity contrasting with other air force combet planes; and

(d) whether the proposed supply of F-16 and raking up of Kashmir controversy by USA is basically meant for forcing India to accept NPT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The US proposal to provide 38 F-16 aircraft and other military equipment to Pakistan in return for a verifiable cap on Pakistan's production of fissile material is, reportedly, still under discussion between the US and Pakistan Governments.

(b) and (c) The F-16 is a multi-role aircraft with improved offensive and defensive capabilities. It is also capable of being modified for delivering nuclear weapons.

(e) of late, the US has not been urging India to sign the NPT. The US has conveyed that the proposal to supply F-16s to Pakistan in return for a verifiable cap on Pakistan's production of fissile material is a bilateral proposal. There has also been some restraint in recent statements by US Government regarding Kashmir.

Pakistan Proposal for Reduction of Tension Between India and Pakistan

6644. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is now ready for talks with India and its Foreign Minister was reported to have said that Pakistan would soon be sending two non-papers (Informal documents) to India on reduction of tension and armaments between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Govt. and steps taken to hold talks immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b): On 21 March, 1994, Government reiterated to the Government of Pakitan its readiness to resolve all bilateral differences peacefully and through negotiations as envisaged under the Simla Agreement, and that the 8th Round of Foreign Secretary-level talks may be resumed accordingly. Pakistan has not given a formal response to the Indian proposal.

Government have come across a media report on march 3, 1994 attributing to the Foreign Minister of Pakistan a statement to the effect that Pakistan would be sending two non-papers to India.